

forward with the research and development of alternative pain treatments that don't lead to addiction as opioids do. There has been some progress there, but not nearly enough, and it needs more help.

Third, in terms of treating substance abuse, our bill builds on what works by doubling down on proven evidence-based addiction treatment methods while expanding treatment options for groups particularly vulnerable to addiction, including young people, new and expecting moms, rural communities, communities of color. And it will make permanent the expanded telehealth options for addiction treatment that were temporarily created in response to the social distancing required by COVID-19. This is an exciting opportunity because it turns out, during COVID-19, when we had to rely more on telehealth, there was actually a lot of success in getting people into treatment.

Now, it wasn't as good as having your recovery coach there with you and your, perhaps, other recovering addicts with you to give you the support you need, but for some people who couldn't travel because of the COVID-19 restrictions and, now, perhaps can't travel for other reasons, telehealth is something that was determined to be quite successful in many cases. We should continue that. We have to change laws to do that because it is about whether that would be reimbursed, particularly under Medicaid and Medicare.

CARA 3.0 will also bolster the recovery options for individuals working to put addiction behind them through funding to support recovery support networks. It will enable physicians to provide medication-assisted treatment, like Methadone, to a greater number of patients and change the law to allow those drugs to be prescribed via telehealth for greater use of access.

Part of the telehealth we are looking for is if you have a medication-assisted treatment plan, then you can use telehealth—in other words, over the internet—to be able to get your prescription. There needs to be safeguards in that. We need to be sure the first time a prescription is given, there is a face-to-face contact and make sure that it is not being abused, but this can be quite helpful.

Finally, CARA 3.0 reforms our criminal justice system to ensure that those struggling with addiction, including our veterans, are treated with fairness and compassion by the law, putting them on a path to recovery instead of a downward spiral of substance abuse.

When someone comes out of one of our prisons or jails and comes out as an addict and there is not treatment provided, way too often that person, of course, relapses and begins to use again, gets back into criminal activity, and gets right back in the criminal justice system. That doesn't help anybody. It certainly doesn't help the taxpayer because the cost is \$30 to \$35,000—probably more at the Federal level—to incarcerate someone.

And when they get out, they are just creating more crimes in the community. It is worth putting some emphasis on treatment while someone is in prison if they are suffering from addiction and, certainly, when they get out, getting them into treatment and recovery programs to get them back on their feet.

By the way, we need these people in our workforce right now. We have always needed them, but we particularly do now. This is a win-win for our economy and certainly for the addict.

CARA and CARA 2.0 have given States and local communities new resources and authorities to make a real difference in our States. CARA 3.0, this new bill, renews and strengthens those programs and, given the recent spike in addiction, provides a significant boost in funding as well.

When added with existing CARA programs authorized through 2023, we would be investing over \$1 billion a year to address the epidemic, putting us on a path toward brighter future free from addiction. It is money well spent, in my view. It is necessary. Again, it is going to help to bring our families back together, get people back to work, and ensure that our communities are not being devastated by crime that is committed in relation to these drug issues.

I believe these two bills—the FIGHT Fentanyl Act we talked about and CARA 3.0—will make a difference in addressing this crisis of addiction our country now faces that has been made even worse during the time of the pandemic. A lot of our victims of this addiction crisis are suffering in silence.

I urge my colleagues: Let's act now. Let's bring this to the light. Let's allow mere people to get into treatment, longer-term recovery. Let's be sure we are making fentanyl illegal in all of its forms. Let's, without delay, go to work to once again do what we know works because we turned the tide on addiction.

We began to turn it in 2018, 2019. Let's get back to that. We will save lives and give so many more Americans the ability to achieve their God-given potential.

I yield the floor.

(Mr. KAINE assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Virginia.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 499, 500, 502, 503, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions

be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. James W. Bierman, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Michael Langley

IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Marcus H. Thomas

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Douglas A. Paul

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE NAVY

PN1278 NAVY nominations (1118) beginning DYLAN L. AAKER, and ending ALISON M. ZYCHLEWICZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2021.

PN1279 NAVY nomination of Harold S. Zald, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2021.

PN1280 NAVY nomination of Paul J. Wisniewski, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2021.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 3122

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if the Senate receives a message from the House of Representatives that it has passed a surface transportation authorization extension that is identical to the text of S. 3122 that the bill be considered read a third time and deemed passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.